

Alliance and Farmers' Organizations. Editors Progressive Farmer:

This is a day of organization. The action of manufacturers of cotton, of cotton-seed oil and meal, of tobacco, of shoes, hats, the merchants, lawyers, doctors, the laborers—all stand out before us as evidence that it pays to organize. And I am glad to say the farmers at last are beginning to see it in its true light. We could give a thousand reasons why the farmer should organize. I don't think of one why he should not. The old copy, "United we stand, divided we fall," still holds good, and is just as applicable to the farmer as to any other fellow.

Now don't forget the April quarterly meeting. I hope to read in The Progressive Farmer good reports from the more than thirty-five counties that are in our ranks. Don't forget The Progressive Farmer. We all agree that it's one of the best agricultural papers at all. Let's give it our support. We expect it to publish free of cost all our meetings and blow our horn in general, therefore we owe it our support. I consider it fortunate for the farmer that he can get such a paper at the low price of one dollar per year. Now let me ask that at the next county meeting all over the State that some one make it his or her business to get up a club for this our organ.

And I want to ask every farmer in the good Old North State to lay aside the past, whatever it may have been that has kept you out of the Alliance, whether it be political, personal, or otherwise, let the past go with the past, let gone-bys be gone-bys, and let us look the situation squarely in the face and come together and stand together for our own mutual protection and the betterment of mankind.

Very sincerely,

H. M. CATES.

Alamance Co., N. C.

Congressional Extravagance.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

The funeral of the Illinois Congressman on Thursday was another example of extravagant expenditure. Its exact cost has not yet been added up, but as Illinois is not very near at hand, it was probably at least \$5,000. Whenever a Congressman dies it is deemed "courtesy" to vote public money for an ostentatious leave-taking. A committee of ten to twenty members is appointed by the Speaker to accompany the dead man from Washington to his former home. They charter a Pullman car and buffet, stock it with provisions—every necessity and luxury—then fill up the rest of the car with reporters, and others who wish to take a free ride. Champagne and whiskey are always on hand in great abundance, and as they are free to all, they are partaken of with avidity. On many occasions the committee has arrived at its destination in a dismantled and demoralized condition, with several of the members so intoxicated that they could not participate in the funeral. Sometimes the committee is

equipped throughout with new silk hats at the expense of the government, and on rare occasions waterproof coats have been added, to ensure comfort. A Senator gave your correspondent one of the cigars freely handed out on one of these solemn picnics. It was, very appropriately, the color of gold, and it was enclosed in a little cut glass vial like a vial of attar of rose, with a dainty silk ribbon around its neck. Hundreds of these cigars are smoked on one of these junkets. Sometimes \$15,000 or \$20,000 or even more is spent on one of these occasions, and, on returning, the committee has frequently left their dead comrade's family behind in a state of destitution. Col. Dick Bright, Sergeant-at-arms of the Senate under Cleveland and McKinley, made enemies in both parties because he refused to furnish champagne and whiskey free. Hearst's funeral is said to have cost \$25,000, as there were several Pullmans, costing \$45 a day each and fares for eighteen passengers in each car.

A. B. MARRIOTT.

Washington, D. C.

The second cargo of Peruvian guano to arrive at Charleston in twenty-five years reached there last week, and will be tested by a Clemson College expert to determine whether it is suitable for use as fertilizer in the highlands of South Carolina. It is expected that 20,000 tons of this guano will be landed at Charleston during the year, several hundred thousands of it still remaining on Labos Island, off the coast of Peru.

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JOE R. WOLLETT.

Odell, N. C.

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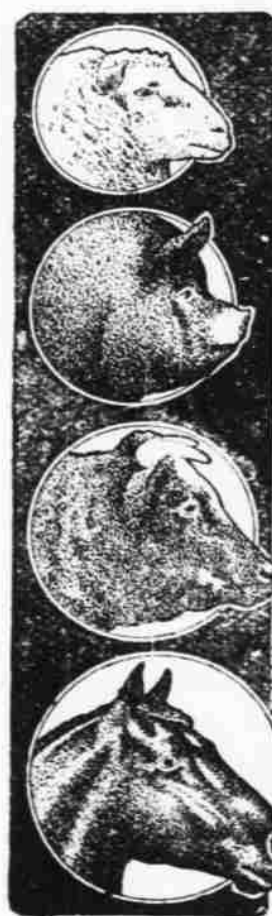
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